

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-3, 5 and 11 and add new Claims 14-18:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 1

wherein

R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, or isopropyl,

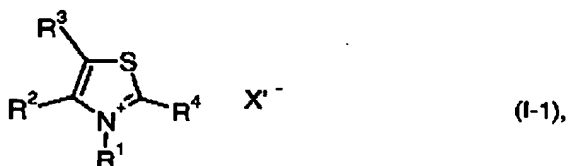
R² represents methyl or ethyl, and

X⁻ represents tetrafluoroborate.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula

(I-1)



in which

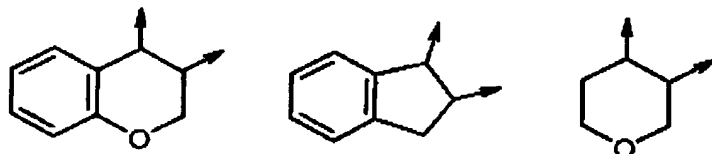
R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R² represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl,

R³ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or

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R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO_2 , carboxyl, carbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO_2 -, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy-, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



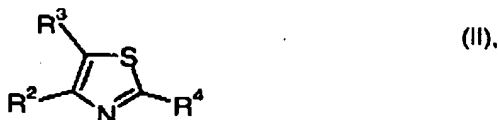
where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R^4 represents bromine or chlorine, and

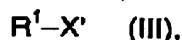
X^- represents chloride, bromide, iodide, hydrogen sulfate, $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, $SbCl_6^-$, methanesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate, or p-toluenesulfonate,

comprising

(a) reacting compounds of the formula (II)



in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have the meanings indicated for formula (I-1), with alkylating reagents of the formula (III)



in which

R^1 has the meaning indicated for formula (I-1), and

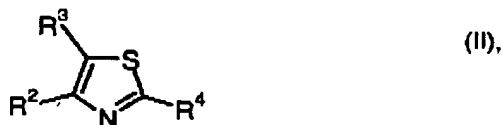
X' represents chlorine, bromine, iodine, sulfoxy, $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, $SbCl_6^-$, methylsulfonyloxy, trifluorosulfonyloxy or toluenesulfonyloxy,

in the presence of a diluent, or

(b) reacting compounds of the formula (II)

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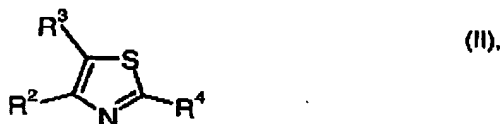
in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have the meanings indicated for formula (I-1),
with sulfonating reagents of the formula (VII)



in which

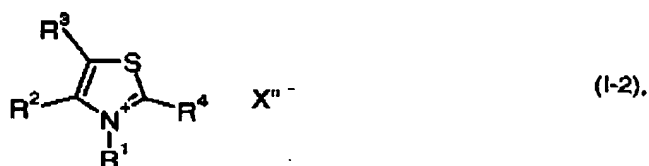
R^1 has the meaning indicated for formula (I-1),
in the presence of a diluent, or

- (c) oxidizing compounds of the formula (II)



in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have the meanings indicated for formula (I-1),
using hydrogen peroxide, peracids, or NaOCl.

7. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of compounds of formula
(I-2)



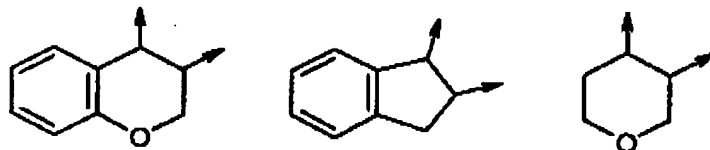
in which

- R^1 represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,
 R^2 represents C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO_2 , C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 -

alkoxy, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-halogeno-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl,

R³ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or

R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, carboxyl, carbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO₂-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas

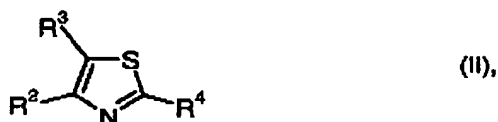


where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and n represents 3, 4 or 5,

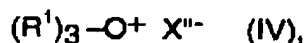
R⁴ represents bromine or chlorine, and

X^{'''}- represents tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate, comprising

(a) reacting compounds of the formula (II)

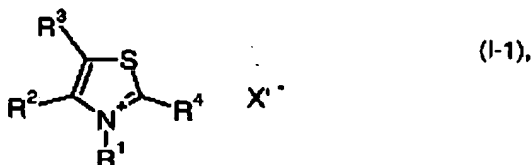


in which R², R³ and R⁴ have the meanings indicated for formula (I-2), with alkylating reagents of the formula (IV)



in which R¹ and X^{'''}- have the meanings indicated for formula (I-2), in the presence of a diluent, or

- (b) exchanging the anion X^{-} of compounds of the formula (I-1)



in which

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 have the meanings indicated for formula (I-2), and X^{-} represents chlorine, bromine, iodine, sulfoxy, $\frac{1}{2}$ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, $SbCl_6^{-}$, methylsulfonyloxy, trifluoromethylsulfonyloxy or toluenesulfonyloxy,

with tetrafluoroboric acid, tetraphenylboric acid, or hexafluorophosphoric acid or an anion exchanger loaded with tetrafluoroboric acid, tetraphenylboric acid, or hexafluorophosphoric acid so that X^{-} has the meaning indicated for formula (I-2).

8. (Original) A condensation agent comprising a compound according to Claim 1.
9. (Original) A peptide coupling reagent comprising a condensation agent according to Claim 8.
10. (Withdrawn) A method comprising synthesizing peptides with a condensation agent wherein the condensation agent is a compound according to Claim 1.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Withdrawn) A process for the preparation of compounds of the formula (II)



in which

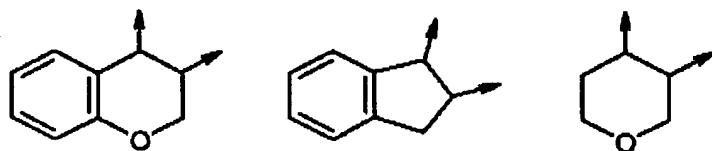
R^2 represents C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, phenyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO_2 , C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl, C_1 - C_4 -

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alkoxy, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy, benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or pyrrolyl, thienyl, naphthyl, or benzothiophenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl,

R³ represents hydrogen, methyl, or ethyl, or

R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO₂, carboxyl, carbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO₂-, C₁-C₄-alkyl-, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl-, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-, or C₁-C₄-halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



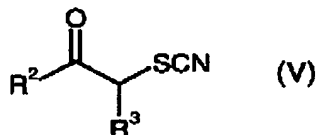
where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and

n represents 3, 4 or 5, and

R⁴ represents bromine or chlorine,

comprising

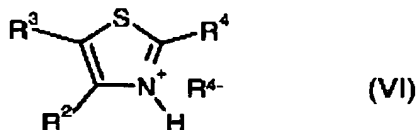
(1) reacting compounds of the formula (V)



in which

R² and R³ have one of the meanings indicated for formula (II),

with hydrogen bromide or hydrogen chloride in the presence of a diluent to form a compound of the formula (VI)



in which R^2 , R^3 and R^4 have one of the meanings indicated for formula (II)
and R^{4-} is bromide or chloride, and

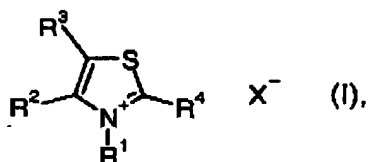
- (2) releasing the hydrogen bromide or hydrogen chloride from the compound of the formula (VI).

13. (Withdrawn) A compound of the formula (II-1)



in which n represents 1 or 2.

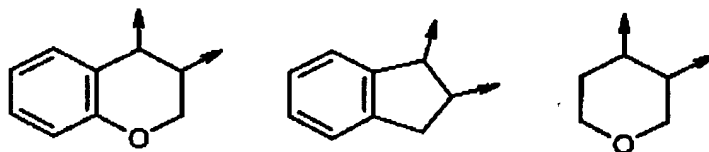
14. (New) A compound of the formula (I)



In which

R^1 represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO_2 , carboxyl, carbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO_2 -, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy-, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



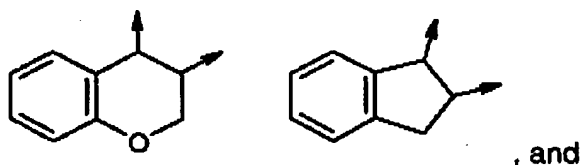
where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and

n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R^4 represents bromine or chlorine, and

X⁻ represents chloride, bromide, iodide, hydrogen sulfate, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, hexachloroantimonate, methanesulfonate, trifluoromethanesulfonate, p-toluenesulfonate, tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate.

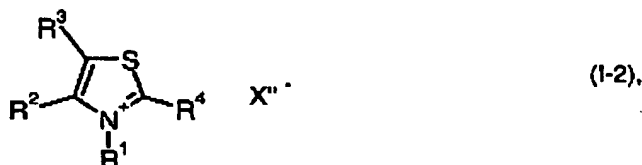
15. (New) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 14, wherein R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, n- or i-propyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or n- or i-propoxy, R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, or carbonyl or the groups having the formulas



n represents 3 or 4,
R⁴ represents bromine, and
X⁻ represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, SbCl₆⁻, mesylate, triflate, tosylate, tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate.
16. (New) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 14, wherein R¹ represents methyl, ethyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine,
R² and R³ together represent -(CH₂)_n- that is optionally substituted by fluorine and/or chlorine,
methyl, ethyl, or carbonyl, and
X⁻ represents bromide, ½ equivalent of sulfate, sulfate, or tetrafluoroborate.

17. (New) A compound of the formula (I) according to Claim 14, wherein R⁴ represents bromine.

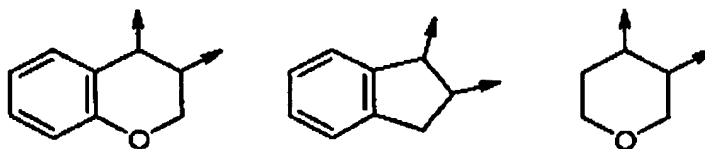
18. (New) A compound of the formula (I-2)



in which

R^1 represents methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, hydroxyl, methylsulfonyl, ethylsulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl, p-methylphenylsulfonyl, or benzyl that is optionally substituted by halogen, nitro, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

R^2 and R^3 together represent $-(CH_2)_n-$ that is optionally substituted by halogen, NO_2 , carboxyl, carbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy or the optionally halogen-, NO_2 -, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl-, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy-, or C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkoxy-substituted groups having the formulas



where the arrows mark the points of linkage to the thiazole ring, and

n represents 3, 4 or 5,

R^4 represents bromine or chlorine, and

X^{n-} represents tetrafluoroborate, tetraphenylborate, or hexafluorophosphate.